

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MUSCAT 00981 160558Z
ACTION AID-31

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OPIC-03
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03 SS-15 SP-02 /083 W
-----052489 161733Z /43
R 160329Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4495
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, ECRE, MU, US
SUBJECT: PROPOSED WATER AUGMENTATION PROJECT FOR OMAN

REF (A) MUSCAT 0504, (B) ABU DHABI 1040, (C) ABU DHABI 1052
(NOTAL), (D) STATE 103921, (E) MUSCAT 0628, (F) STATE 134183
(NOTAL), (G) MUSCAT 0776 (NOTAL)

1. CHARGE HAS JUST RECEIVED LETTER QUOTED BELOW FROM
MR. SADEK SULAIMAN WHO WRITES IN HIS CAPACITY AS
ACTING UNDERSECRETARY OF FOREIGN MINISTRY. LETTER
RESPONDS TO MAY 3 LETTER FROM CHARGE TO FOREIGN
MINISTER ZAWAWI TRANSMITTING SUBSTANCE REF D.
IDEA OF WATER AUGMENTATION PROJECT HAD ORIGINATED
WITH FOREIGN MINISTER.

BEGIN QUOTE: I AM DIRECTED BY H.E. THE MINISTER
OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR
LETTER DATED MAY 3RD, CONCERNING OUR REQUEST
REGARDING POSSIBLE U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE
TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF SMALL DAMS OR CATCHMENT
STRUCTURES IN THE MOUNTAINS OF OMAN.

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WE HAD INTENDED THIS REQUEST TO BE FOR THE
ASSISTANCE OF THE U.S. CORPS OF ENGINEERS TO HELP
US IN EITHER THE STUDY AND IMPLEMENTATION OF WATER
AUGMENTATION PROJECTS OF THIS TYPE OR, AS A FIRST
STEP, FOR THE STUDIES REQUIRED FOR SUCH PROJECTS.

WILL YOU KINDLY CONSIDER THIS TO BE A FORMAL

REQUEST TO YOUR EMBASSY TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY
OF THE U.S. CORPS OF ENGINEERS ASSISTING US IN
THIS PROGRAMME AND LETTING US KNOW WHAT THE
EXPENSES WOULD BE. END QUOTE.

2. COMMENTS: ALTHOUGH IT IS TRUE THAT THE
FOREIGN MINISTER MENTIONED THE U.S. CORPS OF
ENGINEERS WHEN HE INITIALLY MADE THIS PROPOSAL,
THE ABOVE LETTER IS THE FIRST CLEAR INDICATION THAT
HE DOES NOT WANT ANY OTHER USG AGENCY. AS
ADDRESSEES ARE AWARE, OUR RESPONSE TO OMANIS ON
THIS MATTER SO FAR HAVE STRESSED BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
AS THE LOGICAL ACTION ORGANIZATION.

3. OUR REPORTING HAS ALSO TRIED TO SHOW THAT AT
LEAST NE KEY OMANGOV WATER ADVISER BELIEVES
ENTIRE IDEA MAY NOT BE FULLY THOUGHT OUT ON OMANI
SIDE. ABOVE LETTER MAKES US WONDER WHETHER
FOREIGN MINISTER, FOR UNEXPLAINED REASONS, MAY
BE LESS INTERESTED IN PROJECT PER SE THAN IN MERELY
SECURING INVOLVEMENT OF U.S. CORPS OF ENGINEERS
IN OMAN.

4. WE WILL SEEK EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO GET FOREIGN
MINISTRY TO ELABORATE ON TIS PREFERENCE FOR CORPS
OF ENGINEERS. MEANWHILE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE
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PRELIMINARY GUIDANCE. DESPITE OUR COMMENT ABOVE,
WE RECOGNIZE THE U.S. CORPS OF ENGINEERS CAN
PERHAPS BE OF REAL SERVICE TO OMAN IN THIS FIELD.
SIZER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
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